

**Texas Department of Health
Analysis of Risk Factors
for Childhood Blood Lead Levels
El Paso, Texas, 1997-2002**



Summary Fact Sheet

Children may be exposed to lead from many sources. Many things influence if a child will have elevated blood lead. Recently the Texas Department of Health (TDH) released a report that looked at things that increase chances of elevated blood lead in El Paso children.

Things that can increase chances of elevated blood lead levels in El Paso children.

- **child's age**
- **housing age**
- **poverty**
- **emigration from Mexico since 1990**
- **distance from residence to smelter**

The report also looked to see if soil could be one of the things that can increase blood lead levels. We evaluated soil sampling information from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency combined with blood lead results from the TDH Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. **Soil lead probably contributes to elevated blood lead levels of El Paso children.**

If you have any questions regarding this report, please call Nancy Ingram at 1-800-588-1248.

Reduce exposure to lead

- U Avoid serving foods in areas with contaminated soil.
- U Wash hands and face thoroughly after working or playing in soil.
- U Wash toys, pacifiers, and other items that go into children's mouths often.
- U Remove work and play shoes before entering the house.
- U Damp-mop floors and wipe down counters, tables, and window ledges regularly.
- U Wash soil-laden clothes separately from other clothes.
- U Cover bare soils with grass or other materials.

Have your child's blood tested

The Texas Department of Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program recommends that ALL children have their blood tested for lead at ages 1 and 2.

Medicaid requires that children are tested for lead in their blood.

To have your child tested, please talk with your health care provider, the El Paso City/County Health Department at 915-543-3525, or the La Fe Clinic at 915-545-7041.